

*United States Attorney's Office
Northern District of Iowa*



PRESS RELEASE

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**DRUGS AND GUNS EQUAL OVER EIGHT YEARS IN FEDERAL
PRISON FOR MONONA COUNTY MAN.**

United States Attorney Matt M. Dummermuth announced today a previously convicted domestic abuser who possessed three firearms, one of which he received in trade for methamphetamine, was sentenced today to more than eight years in federal prison.

THOMAS HUNTLEY, 34, from Castana, Iowa, received the prison term after an April 2, 2007, jury verdict finding he distributed methamphetamine and used a firearm during that distribution and a March 23, 2007, guilty plea in which he admitted he possessed three firearms after being previously convicted of a misdemeanor domestic crime of violence.

While **HUNTLEY** admitted he possessed the three firearms, he denied he acquired one of the firearms (a handgun) in a gun-for-drugs trade. The dispute was resolved at trial when a witness testified **HUNTLEY** acquired methamphetamine in Omaha; took it to Onawa, Iowa; and traded three-quarters of a gram of methamphetamine for a pistol. The witness also said **HUNTLEY** threatened him by saying: "[expletive deleted] snitch, you're going to get shanked in the [expletive deleted] neck when you get to [the federal prison in] Minnesota." The jury convicted **HUNTLEY** of distributing methamphetamine and using the pistol in connection with one of those distributions (i.e., trading methamphetamine for the pistol).

HUNTLEY was sentenced in Sioux City by United States District Court Judge Mark W. Bennett. **HUNTLEY** was sentenced to 101 months' imprisonment. A special assessment of \$400 was imposed. He must also serve a three-year term of supervised release after the prison term. There is no parole in the federal system.

HUNTLEY remains in the custody of the United States Marshal until he can be transported to a federal prison.

This case was prosecuted as part of Project Safe Neighborhoods, a cooperative local, state, and federal program aimed at the enhanced prosecution of gun crimes. The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives; Monona County Sheriff's Office; and Onawa, Iowa, Police Department. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Forde Fairchild.